

Members

Rep. Troy Woodruff, Chairperson
Rep. Sheila Klinker
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Connie Sipes
Sylvia Marie Brantley
Christopher Durcholz
Daniel R. Harshman
Suda Hopkins
Sally Lowery
Scott MacGregor
Betty Williams
Darin J. Yoder



COMMISSION ON MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Susan Kennell, Attorney for the Commission
Sarah Brooks, Fiscal Analyst for the Commission

Authority: IC 2-5-27.2

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 25, 2006
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. Troy Woodruff, Chairperson; Rep. Sheila Klinker; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sylvia Marie Brantley; Christopher Durcholz; Suda Hopkins; Sally Lowery; Betty Williams; Darin J. Yoder.

Members Absent: Sen. Connie Sipes; Daniel R. Harshman; Scott MacGregor.

I. Call to Order

Representative Troy Woodruff, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M.

II. Comments on First Steps Procedures, Ms. Val Strohl, Chairperson, Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Ms. Strohl discussed changes made to the First Steps Program. (Exhibit 1) In answer to questions, Ms. Strohl said that she had supported the concept of billing insurance for First Steps services. However, the implementation has created some problems.

III. Additional Information on First Steps, Ms. Lora Miller, Director, First Steps

Ms. Miller provided the members with a letter sent to families in September of 2005, concerning implementation of a system of service coordination using System Points of Entry (SPOE's). (Exhibit 2) The decision to use SPOE's as a case management tool was made as a result of meetings of a stakeholders group that met in 2005 and is intended to provide uniform services and supervision of service providers. The transition from the old system where independent contractors were providing coordination to the use of SPOE's has created some issues for families, especially where the families were happy with the service they were receiving. Service providers will now be assigned to families, but a family can request a new service provider if the family is not happy with the assigned provider. Ms. Miller indicated that the transition issues should be worked out in three months. Ms. Miller also reported that the federal government audits the First Steps Program annually.

Ms. Miller provided the members with the following:

- (1) A copy of a letter sent to parents April 12, 2006, concerning changes in First Steps regarding copayments and insurance billing. (Exhibit 3)
- (2) Information on cost participation by parents beginning with state fiscal year 2003. (Exhibit 4)
- (3) A copy of a survey sent to parents who withdrew from First Steps due to cost participation. (Exhibit 5).

In response to a question from Senator Riegsecker, Ms. Miller reported that since April 1 when the co-payments began, 46 people have declined services.

During discussion on whether or not to have legislation to require an independent review of the program, Chairperson Woodruff said that a review could be conducted without legislation. During the discussion it was agreed that the stakeholders group which was operational during 2005 will be reconvened to set the parameters for an independent review of the program.

IV. Discussion of Appropriations for Silvercrest and the Fort Wayne State Development Center, Mr. Peter Bisbecos, Director, Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS)

Mr. Bisbecos discussed the need to reduce the waiting lists for Medicaid waiver services. Currently 15,000 individuals are on the waiting lists. It is important to make sure that the funds currently appropriated for Silvercrest and the Fort Wayne State Developmental Center do not get lost in the process of preparing the next state budget. The members were provided information on the estimated expenditures for Silvercrest for FY 2006-07. (Exhibit 6) The money currently appropriated is being requested for services to be provided by the DDARS for the next budget cycle.

The Commission considered a resolution requesting FSSA, the State Department of Health, and the Budget Agency to work together to ensure that the funds previously appropriated for Silvercrest and the Fort Wayne State Developmental Center be retained for use for services for persons with developmental disabilities. (Exhibit 7) Representative

Klinker made a motion that was seconded by Senator Riegsecker urging the three listed agencies to preserve the money formerly used for Silvercrest and the Fort Wayne Developmental Center for services for persons with developmental disabilities. The motion passed with a vote of nine to zero.

V. Discussion of Budget Priorities, Mr. James M. Hammond, III, President and CEO, INARF

Mr. Hammond discussed the budget priorities of INARF. (Exhibit 8) In addition to discussing budget priorities, Mr. Hammond told the members that he thinks any review of the First Steps Program should compare the program the way it was administered prior to the introduction of copayments and mandatory billing of insurance to the way it is operating now. He also indicated that there were a lot of good people providing services before the changes were made to the program who were lost in the transition.

VI. Discussion of Budget Priorities, Ms. Kim Dodson, Arc of Indiana

Ms. Dodson discussed the budget priorities of the Arc of Indiana. (Exhibit 9)

VII. Discussion of Budget Priorities of DDARS, Mr. Peter Bisbecos, Director, Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS)

Mr. Bisbecos indicated that the overall goal for DDARS is to retain money for services and to build infrastructure for providing services in communities. He reported that the request for proposals (RFP) for community crisis management was issued September 15, and that the goal is to award the contract by December 29, 2006.

VIII. Resolution Concerning Care Givers

Chairperson Woodruff presented a resolution that emphasizes the importance of continuity of quality care for individuals with developmental disabilities who are in community settings and requires DDARS to conduct a study to develop a career path for direct care providers. (Exhibit 10) Representative Klinker made a motion to adopt the resolution that was seconded by Ms. Brantley. The motion passed by a vote of eight to zero.

IX. Adjournment

Chairperson Woodruff closed the meeting by emphasizing the need to utilize the Medicaid waivers and reduce the waiting list as priorities of the Commission. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.